

democratic institutions and undertaking fundamental economic reforms. In addition, for the United States to refuse their admission into NATO at this stage would undermine U.S. leadership both in the Atlantic Alliance and globally.

However, my support for the admission of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic into NATO should not be interpreted as a green light for further rounds of NATO enlargement. I believe that there is no mandate for further rounds of NATO enlargement. As the forty-one votes in support of the Warner Amendment indicate, more than enough Senators are concerned about moving too fast on NATO enlargement to block approval of the accession of any additional states to NATO in the near-term. In addition, provisions of the NATO resolution makes clear that the Senate expects to be closely consulted prior to any future negotiations on inviting other countries to join NATO.

We must get answers to critical questions before we even begin to consider whether additional countries should be invited to join NATO. Before any further enlargement is contemplated, the United States needs to know the costs of the first several years of integrating Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic into NATO, and the burden sharing arrangements for meeting those costs. In addition, the Alliance must first complete revising and updating its Strategic Concept, the statement of NATO's fundamental military mission. This will allow NATO members, and countries potentially seeking membership, to judge for themselves whether further expansion strengthens—or undermines—the Alliance's ability to carry out its strategic mission.

I continue to have serious doubts about the wisdom of any further enlargement of NATO. In rushing to bring the states of the former Warsaw Pact and the former Soviet Union into the NATO military fold, we risk undermining our ability to work with Russia to reduce the most immediate threats to our security. In particular, I am concerned about the adverse impact that the consideration of the Baltic states for NATO membership might have on on-going U.S.-Russian cooperative initiatives. These initiatives address some of our highest security concerns, including the containment of the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological technology and materials, and achieving mutual reductions in strategic nuclear forces. With regard to the Baltics, I draw the attention of my colleagues to a colloquy between Sen. BIDEN and myself recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of April 30th, on page S3888. This colloquy clarifies that the United States has not pre-committed, either in the U.S.-Baltic Charter of Partnership or elsewhere, to support NATO membership for the Baltic states.

I hope now we can put the distraction of NATO enlargement behind us. It has

yet to be explained how the expansion of a military alliance, formed during the height of the Cold War to defend its members' territory from external attack, serves our needs in today's changed security environment. The threats we face today require careful consideration of a full range of options—whether NATO, the Partnership for Peace initiative between NATO and 28 countries of Europe and the former Soviet Union, or other collective security arrangements—to increase the security and stability of all democratic states.

The Senate, as well, needs to turn its attention to efforts that mutually enhance the security of the United States, its NATO allies, and the states of Eastern Europe, including Russia. These include laying the groundwork for Senate approval of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, supporting the elimination of Russian strategic arms under the Cooperative Threat Reduction program, and encouraging acceleration of the START process to further reduce Russian nuclear weapons. In the long-run these initiatives offer valuable alternatives to NATO enlargement for addressing the highest security concerns in today's post-Cold War security environment.●

TRIBUTE TO THE WILLIAM E. BIVIN FORENSICS SOCIETY: 1998 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE DEBATE CHAMPIONS

● Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the William E. Bivin Forensic Society—the debate team at Western Kentucky University, located in Bowling Green, Kentucky—for their recent victories at the national collegiate debate championships.

In mid-March, Western won the Delta Sigma Rho—Tau Kappa Alpha Lincoln-Douglas Debate Championships at Miami University in Ohio. Two members of the team, Mike McDonner and Aaron Whaley—were co-national champions in the individual competition.

Then, in April, Western also won at the National Forensics Association tournament at Western Illinois University, defeating Ohio State University by a 5-0 decision. Mike McDonner again captured the individual title, and teammate Kerri Richardson was a semifinalist. In addition, Kristin Pamperin and Doug Morey were quarterfinalists. Other varsity members of the victorious Western Kentucky team were Amanda Gibson and Aaron Whaley. Novice debaters Mitchell Bailey, Jennifer Cloyd and Brian Sisk also contributed to the team title.

These two debates comprise the national championships in college debating circles, and it is extremely rare that one team wins both events. Amazingly, this is second time in three years that Western Kentucky has claimed both debates. The winning tradition being built in Bowling Green is a

testament to the strong leadership of the team's coach, Judy Woodring.

Mr. President, Western Kentucky University's debate team is building quite a tradition. I offer my congratulations to Coach Woodring and to all the members of the Bivin Forensics Society for another great year. With two national championships in three years, I expect that we may be seeing the beginning of a dynasty in Bowling Green.●

MIGNON CLYBURN'S APPOINTMENT TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Mignon Clyburn, daughter of U.S. Representative JAMES CLYBURN, on her election to the South Carolina Public Service Commission. The PSC—which oversees electricity, gas, phone, water, and sewer rates—is crucial to safeguarding consumer rights for all the people of South Carolina. Its work will be especially important and complex now that the telecommunications and utilities industries have been deregulated. It is because the work of the Public Service Commission is so important that I am glad to see someone as capable and dedicated as Mignon Clyburn appointed to the Commission.

Public service flows in Mignon's blood. Her father, the first black Representative elected from South Carolina since Reconstruction, served South Carolina for many years in various community and state positions before entering the House of Representatives.

Mignon has worked for over a decade as the driving force behind The Coastal Times newspaper. Her tireless work writing, editing, and marketing the magazine has earned it well-deserved praise as one of the best community papers in the Southeast. Mignon also has served her community through extensive volunteer work with the United Way and other organizations.

Mr. President, Mignon Clyburn will make an excellent Commissioner. She understands the importance of the Public Service Commission for the people of South Carolina. She said after accepting the position, "I think this is the most significant agency . . . in the state. What's more vital or fundamental than your utilities?"

Mignon Clyburn will make a wonderful Public Service Commissioner. She is an intelligent, hard working, and committed to improving the life of every South Carolinian. I am confident she will be a dedicated and effective guardian of South Carolina consumers.●

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the importance of the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive. The National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive,